

REMARKS

Claim 1-17 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 18, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claims 18 and 20-27 are pending.

Claims 18-27 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of various U.S. Patents. In response, even though Applicant does not agree with these rejections, Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer after the other substantive rejections have been overcome.

USP 4,938,243 to Foster ("Foster")

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Foster. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 18 and 24 have been amended to recite that each frame member forms a plurality of concentric rings when the frame member is in the folded orientation. In contrast, the frame members in Foster cannot form a plurality of concentric rings when the frame members are in the folded orientation. This is best illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4, in column 3, lines 8-28 (e.g., see "U-shaped configuration", "U-shaped halves", "tubing that is ... rigid ..."), and in column 4, lines 8-16 of Foster.

Thus, claims 18 and 24, and claims 20-23 and 25-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over Foster.

USP 5,249,592 to Springer et al. ("Springer")

Claims 18-22 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Springer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite a first frame retaining sleeve for retaining the portion of the frame member for the side member, and a second frame retaining sleeve for retaining the portion of the frame member for the base member. In contrast, the frame members 32, 34 in Springer cannot be retained in separate sleeves. This is best illustrated in FIG. 5 of Springer.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite that the side frame member and the base frame member are separate from each other when the bottom side of the side frame member and the first side of the base frame member are connected. See FIGS. 1, 3A-3C of the present invention. In contrast, the frame members 32, 34 in Springer are directly connected together (see FIG. 5), and therefore cannot be separate from each other.

Thus, claims 18 and 24, and claims 20-23 and 25-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over Springer.

USP 5,038,812 to Norman ("Norman")

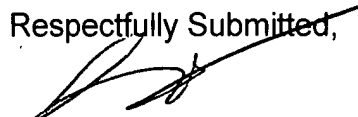
Claims 18-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Norman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 18 recites a base member that includes a frame member, and independent claim 24 recites a base frame member. In contrast, the base member in Norman is element 104 and not element 102, and element 104 does not have any frame member. For example, column 7, lines 57-60 describes "tucking" the floor member 104 between the three loops. The floor member 104 cannot be "tucked" if it has a frame member. The illustrations in FIGS. 12-15 further evidence the fact that the floor member 104 cannot have a frame member.

Thus, claims 18 and 24, and claims 20-23 and 25-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over Norman.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to phone the undersigned if there are informal matters that can be resolved in a phone conversation or by Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,



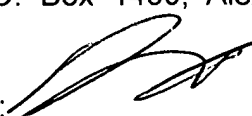
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: August 4, 2004

By: 
Raymond Sun